

Robert BOULIN  
(Phonetic: booLAN)

FRANCE

Minister of Labor  
(since April 1978)

Addressed as:  
Mr. Minister



A longtime Gaullist moderate who has served with distinction under four prime ministers, Robert Boulin has held eight different Cabinet posts during the past 18 years. He has set a new French record for ministerial longevity and is especially proud of his 13 years (1961-73) of consecutive service in Gaullist governments. Formerly Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Economy and Finance (1977-78), Boulin is knowledgeable about France's controversial economic policies, and his mastery of technical issues enables him to speak clearly and convincingly on many economic issues. A firm, skillful negotiator, Boulin currently has the unenviable task of curbing France's growing social and labor unrest, which has resulted, in part, from record-breaking unemployment (now at 1.3 million) and concern for job security. He apparently does not expect unemployment to stabilize before the end of 1979, but the March 1979 unemployment compensation agreement has at least brightened prospects for improved labor-management relations in France.

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He apparently has a reputation as a dynamic and resourceful politician, ready to take the risks involved in tackling difficult problems. As Agriculture Minister (1968-69), he was noted for his courage in proposing much needed but unpopular reforms to encourage marginal producers to leave the soil and seek more useful occupations. With the equally difficult portfolio of Public Health and Social Security (1969-72), he was able to bring about a minireform, known as the Boulin Plan, within

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CR M 79-12105

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[REDACTED]

the social security program. He also devoted much time and energy to fighting France's growing drug problem. Because of his flair for public relations and his well-refined talents as a conciliator, Boulin twice was given the important post of Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Relations (1972-73, 1976-77). [REDACTED]

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### Background

During World War II, Boulin served with Gen. Charles de Gaulle and was active in the Resistance. Educated in law, he has practiced in the city of Libourne, where he has also been mayor since 1959. Boulin first entered the National Assembly in 1958, as a deputy from Gironde, and he has been reelected ever since. He has had to forgo his parliamentary mandate, however, in order to serve in the Cabinet. Boulin's earlier Cabinet posts included those of Secretary of State for Repatriation (1961-62), Secretary of State for Budget (1962-66), Secretary of State for Economy and Finance (1967-68), and Minister of Civil Service (1968). Also active in business affairs, he has served as a high-ranking executive in the Perrier beverage firm. [REDACTED]

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### Personal Data

The 58-year-old Boulin is married to the former Colette Lalande. They have two grown children, Bertrand and Fabienne. For relaxation, Boulin enjoys horseback riding. His proficiency in English is not known. [REDACTED]

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19 April 1979

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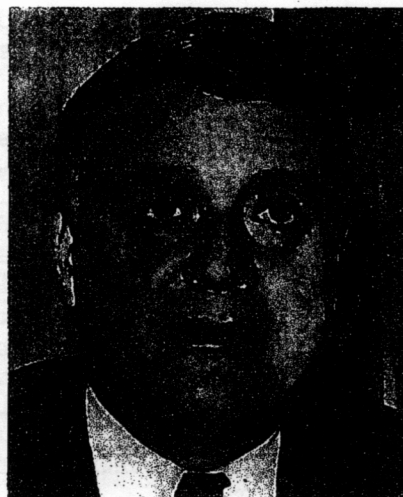
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Robert BOULIN  
(Phonetic: booLAN)

FRANCE

Minister of Labor  
(since April 1978)

Addressed as:  
Mr. Minister



A well-known political figure who has served with distinction under four prime ministers, Robert Boulin has held eight different Cabinet posts during the last 17 years. Before assuming his current portfolio, he worked closely with Prime Minister Raymond Barre as Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Economy and Finance (1977-78). A longtime Gaullist, Boulin is politically allied with Jacques Chaban-Delmas, a liberal Gaullist whom he backed for the Presidency against Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in 1974. Boulin nevertheless has Giscard's confidence, and like the President, he would like to see a broadening toward the center-left of the present majority coalition of Gaullists, Republicans and Centrists.

A Firm and Skillful Negotiator

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He apparently has a reputation as a dynamic and resourceful politician, ready to take the risks involved in tackling difficult problems. As Agriculture Minister (1968-69), he was noted for his courage in proposing much needed but unpopular reforms to encourage marginal producers to leave the soil and seek more useful occupations. With the equally difficult portfolio of Public Health and Social Security (1969-72), he was able to bring about a minireform, known as the Boulin Plan, within the social security program. He also devoted much time and energy to fighting France's growing drug problem. Because of his well-refined talents as a conciliator, Boulin twice was given the important post of Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Relations (1972-73, 1976-77).

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CR M 78-14889

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### Career

During World War II, Boulin served with Gen. Charles de Gaulle and was active in the Resistance. Educated in law, he has practiced in the city of Libourne, where he has also been mayor since 1959. Boulin first entered the National Assembly in 1958, as a deputy from Gironde, and he has been reelected ever since. He is especially proud of his 13 years (1961-73) of consecutive service in Gaullist Cabinets, a record unequaled by any other party member. His earlier Cabinet posts include those of Secretary of State for Repatriation (1961-62), Secretary of State for Budget (1962-66), Secretary of State for Economy and Finance (1967-68), and Minister of Civil Service (1968). Also active in business affairs, he has served as a high-ranking executive in the Perrier beverage firm.

The 58-year-old Boulin is married to the former Colette Lalande. They have two grown children, Bertrand and Fabienne. For relaxation, Boulin enjoys horseback riding. His proficiency in English is not known.

14 September 1978

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**MICROFILMED**

Robert BOULIN  
(Phonetic: boolAN)

FRANCE

Minister of Labor  
(since April 1978)

Addressed as:  
Mr. Minister



A well-known Gaullist political figure, Robert Boulin has held eight different Cabinet posts during the last 18 years. By serving more than 14 years as a Cabinet officer, he has broken the longstanding record for ministerial longevity previously held by Jean-Baptiste Colbert, Minister of Finance under King Louis XIV during the 17th century. Before assuming his current portfolio, Boulin had worked with Prime Minister Raymond Barre as Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Parliamentary Relations (1976-77) and then in Charge of Economy and Finance (1977-78). His earlier Cabinet portfolios included Civil Service (1968), Agriculture (1968-69), and Public Health and Social Security (1969-72).

During World War II, Boulin served with Gen. Charles de Gaulle and was active in the Resistance. Educated in law, he practiced in the city of Libourne, where he has been mayor since 1959. He was elected to the National Assembly (parliament) as a deputy from the Gironde Department in 1958 and has been reelected in every subsequent election. He has had to give up his parliamentary mandate, however, in order to serve in the Cabinet. During his early career, Boulin held a succession of junior ministerial posts as Secretary of State for Repatriation (1961-62), Secretary of State for Budget (1962-66), and Secretary of State for Economy and Finance (1967-68).

The 58-year-old Boulin holds the Croix de Guerre and the Medal of the Resistance. He is married to the former Colette Lalande and has two grown children, Bertrand and Fabienne. Boulin enjoys horseback riding.

CR M 79-12094  
18 April 1979

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Robert BOULIN  
(Phonetic: booLAN)

MICROFILMED

FRANCE

Minister of Labor  
(since April 1978)

Addressed as:  
Mr. Minister



A well-known political figure, Robert Boulin has held eight different Cabinet posts in the last 17 years. Before assuming his current portfolio, he worked with Prime Minister Raymond Barre as Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Parliamentary Relations (1976-77) and then in Charge of Economy and Finance (1977-78). He held earlier Cabinet appointments as Minister of Civil Service (1968), Agriculture (1968-69), and Public Health and Social Security (1969-72).

During World War II, Boulin served with Gen. Charles de Gaulle and was active in the Resistance. Educated in law, he practiced in the city of Libourne, where he has been mayor since 1959. After joining the National Assembly in 1958 as the Gaullist deputy from Gironde, Boulin held a succession of junior ministerial posts as Secretary of State for Repatriation (1961-62), Secretary of State for Budget (1962-66), and Secretary of State for Economy and Finance (1967-68).

The 58-year-old Boulin holds the Croix de Guerre and the Medal of the Resistance. He is married and has two grown children. He enjoys horseback riding.

CR M 78-14890  
14 September 1978

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CIA/CR/77-14847 M  
FRANCE  
**MICROFILMED**Robert BOULIN  
(Phonetic: booLAN)Minister Delegate to  
the Prime Minister in  
Charge of Economy and  
Finance (since March  
1977)Addressed as:  
Mr. Minister

Minister for Parliamentary Relations in Prime Minister Raymond Barre's first Cabinet (August 1976-March 1977), Robert Boulin is a well-known national political figure who has served with distinction under four previous Prime Ministers. No stranger to the world of economy and finance, he is a former Secretary of State for the Budget (1962-66) and for Economy and Finance (1967-68). Boulin is a longtime Gaullist, and he is politically allied with Jacques Chaban-Delmas, whom he backed for the Presidency against Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in 1974. Boulin nevertheless has the confidence of Giscard and, like the President, would like to see a broadening toward the center-left of the present majority coalition of Gaullists, Republicans and Centrists.

Courageous Administrator

He apparently has a reputation as a dynamic and resourceful politician, ready to take the risks involved in tackling difficult problems. As Agriculture Minister (1968-69), he was noted for his courage in proposing much needed but unpopular reforms to encourage marginal producers to leave the soil and seek more useful occupations. With the equally difficult portfolio of Public Health and Social Security (1969-72), he was able to bring about a minireform, known as the Boulin Plan, within the social security program. He also devoted much

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time and energy to fighting France's growing drug problem. Because of his well-refined talents as a conciliator, Boulin twice was given the important post of Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Relations.

#### Background

Boulin served with Gen. Charles de Gaulle and was active in the Resistance during World War II. Educated in law, he has practiced his art for over 30 years in the city of Libourne, where he has also been mayor since 1959. He was elected to the National Assembly from Gironde as a Gaullist in 1958 and has been returned to that body in every succeeding election. Boulin, however, is especially proud of his 13 years (1961-73) of consecutive service in Gaullist Cabinets, a record unequalled by any other party member. He has also been active in business affairs, most notably as a high-ranking executive of the Perrier beverage firm. For relaxation he enjoys horseback riding. Married, he has a grown son and daughter. Boulin's proficiency in English is not known. He is 56 years old.

#### Career Highlights

1958-61; 1973-76	Deputy, National Assembly
1961-62	Secretary of State for Repatriation
1962-66	Secretary of State for Budget
1967-68	Secretary of State for Economy and Finance
May-Jul 1968	Minister of Civil Service
1968-69	Minister of Agriculture
1969-72	Minister of Public Health and Social Security
1972-73; Aug 1976-Mar 1977	Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Parliamentary Relations
30 Mar 1977-date	Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister for Economy and Finance

15 September 1977

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